

Today's Advertisements.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE DIVIDEND declared for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1899, at the RATE OF ONE POUND AND TEN SHILLINGS together with a BONUS OF TEN SHILLINGS Sterling per Share of \$1.25 is PAYABLE on and after MONDAY, the Nineteenth February, current at the OFFICES of the Corporation where Shareholders are requested to apply for WARRANTS.

By order of the Court of Directors,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.
THE THIRTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICE, No. 2, Connaught Road, at NOON, on MONDAY, the 5th March, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1899.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 23rd February to 5th March, both days inclusive.

EDWARD OSBORNE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA, ILOILO AND CEBU.
The Company's Steamship

"KWEIYANG,"
Captain Outerbridge, will be despatched as above on MONDAY, the 19th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.
The Company's Steamship

"HAIYAN,"
Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 20th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS LARSEN & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA, VIA AMOY.
The Company's Steamship

"ESMERALDA,"
Captain Ramsay, will be despatched for the above Port, on THURSDAY, the 22nd instant.

This steamer has Superior Accommodation for Passengers and is fitted with the Electric Light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]



THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR
STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA,
ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN
PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for HAVANA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL AND AMERICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"CLYDE,"
Captain E. Street, carrying Her Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this Port for BOMBAY, Sec., on SATURDAY, the 3rd March, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into a steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London; other Cargo for London, Sec., will be conveyed via Bombay with Transshipment.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

Shippers are particularly requested to note the terms and conditions of the Company's Bills of Lading.

For further Particulars, apply to
H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR TIENTSIN.
The Company's Steamship

"NANCHANG,"
Captain Finlayson, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 20th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"COROMANDEL,"
FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out mark by mark and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo—
From London, Sec., S.S. Britannia.
From Persian Gulf, S.S. Kilia, Moshari and Co.

From Zanzibar, Sec., S.S. Canara.
Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 5 P.M., TO-DAY.

Goods not cleared by the 24th instant, at 4 P.M. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

All damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns and a certificate of the damage obtained from the Godown Company within ten days after the Vessel's arrival here, after which no Claims will be recognized.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

Today's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

WILL GIVE
FOUR PERFORMANCES
OF
THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD.

OR
THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID.

BY
W. S. GILBERT & ARTHUR SULLIVAN,
THIS EVENING.

SATURDAY, 17th February.
SATURDAY, 24th
MONDAY, 26th

Commencing each Evening at 9 P.M. precisely.

Dress Circle and Stalls \$3
Box 10
Half-price to the Pit for Soldiers, Sailors, and Police in Uniform.

TICKETS can be obtained at the Booking Office of the Theatre, CITY HALL, Daily at 10 A.M.

The Booking Office will be OPEN Daily from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. except on Race Days, when it will be Open from 10 A.M. to 12 NOON.

Late Trains will run 1 hour after the fall of the curtain.

H. C. NICOLLE,
Acting Manager.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

TERM BEGINS FRIDAY,
the 23rd February.

APPLICATIONS for Admission attended by Guardians should be in the COLLEGE HALL, at 9 A.M., on either WEDNESDAY, the 21st or THURSDAY, the 22nd instants.

GEO. H. BATHEN-WRIGHT, D.D.,
Head Master.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

NOTICE.

A MEETING of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace will be held at the MAGISTRACY at 2.15 P.M., on WEDNESDAY, the 28th day of February, 1900, for the purpose of considering the following Applications—

1. From one JAMES EDWARDS for a Publican's Licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at house No. 25, Des Vaux Road, under the sign of "The Oriental Hotel."

2. From one JOSEPH ROBERT GRIMBLE for a Publican's Licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at houses Nos. 15 and 16, Jubilee Street, under the sign of "The Jubilee Hotel."

3. From one MORITZ FREEMAN for permission to remove his Licensed Publican's business from houses Nos. 332 and 334, Queen's Road Central, to houses Nos. 208 and 210, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "Lamp We Live In Hotel."

H. R. J. GOMPERTZ,
Acting Police Magistrate.
Magistracy,
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO. LIMITED.

THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 9, Praya Central, Victoria, on THURSDAY, the 8th March, at 12 o'clock NOON, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1899, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 24th February to 8th March, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 17th February, 1900. [225b]

Entertainment.

A. S. WATSON & Co.,
LIMITED.

WINE MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

CLARETS.

Per Case

Per Case

Per Case

Per Case

Per Case

Per Case

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MARRIAGE.

On the 18th January, at Bremen, M. GROTE, of Hongkong, to LUCIE KLEVENHUSEN, of Bremen.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE WAR.

The telegram so courteously placed at our disposal by Sir THOMAS JACKSON, which we issued in the form of an extra this morning, is of a most cheering description and will be all the more appreciated on account of the long series of reverses which we have suffered during the course of the war in South Africa.

Although the relief of Kimberley and the release of its garrison will not very materially increase our effective force yet it will have a good moral effect and it also opens up a passage for us into the Orange Free State besides being the first step on the road to the relief of Colonel Baden-Powell and his plucky garrison shut up in Mafeking.

We really believe that we are at last to see a change in the situation and that Lord Roberts will sweep forward through the Free State and the Transvaal and so force the Boers at present investing Ladysmith to move to meet him, thus rendering General Buller's task less arduous.

It is a significant fact that despite the large number of men landed in South Africa during the last few weeks we have had no news of large reinforcements being sent to Natal and this evidently points to the conclusion that Lord Roberts has no intention of dividing his forces any more but will advance in overwhelming force leaving the divisions already engaged in Natal and the North of Cape Colony to look after themselves and act on the defensive until such time as the Boer forces confronting them have become sufficiently weakened, by men being drawn to oppose Lord Roberts's column, to allow of their advancing.

The relief of Kimberley and the presence of a large British force on the eastern border of the Free State must tend to render the Boers apprehensive of being taken in the rear and the further eastward Lord Roberts moves the more risk will there be of their retreat towards the Transvaal and Orange Free State being cut off. We shall anxiously await news of the advance during the next few days for it looks as though we were at last to have the satisfaction of being the invaders instead of the invaded.

TELEGRAMS.

KIMBERLEY RELIEVED.

General French Successful.

Sir Thomas Jackson courteously informs us that he has received the following telegram—

LONDON, February 16th.
11.30 p.m.

It is officially announced French reached Kimberley last night.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

THE WAR.

Modder River.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from DeKeldersdrift, 14th instant that General French, with three brigades of Cavalry, Artillery and Mounted Infantry, has forced the passage of the Modder River at Klipdrift and occupied the hills to the Northward, capturing three hangers during the operation.

In the meantime General Gordon's brigade seized two drifts to the Westward of General French meeting with slight opposition and small losses.

The sixth division is now on the North Bank of the Riet and moving to the support of the Cavalry. The seventh division is at DeKeldersdrift and moves on in the afternoon.

LATER.

Mafeking.

Mafeking reported "all well" on the 4th inst.—The garrison was again on full rations. Col. Plumer was actively operating to the Southward (sic.) but his progress was hampered by the rains.

The Press on the War.

The newspapers are gratified at Lord Roberts's skilful Eastward advance which they consider ends direct communication between Mafeking and Bloemfontein.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER GAZETTE SERVICE.

THE WAR.

Cape Colony.

LONDON, February 16th.

A Boer despatch from Colesburg, describing the driving in of the British outposts says that the British lost two maxims and about 200 men. The Boer losses on one flank were thirty.

Re-inforcements.

An official announcement states that six new horses, and fifteen field batteries, also three new battalions will be formed.

House of Lords.

In the House of Lords, Lord Kimberley said that he shared in Lord Rosebery's views regarding the danger of the situation and referred to the pressing question of the Indian frontier and to the consequences of the eventual death of the American and Russian activity.

Lord Salisbury said he declined to discuss Russia's motives and that he would follow the example of our forefathers and not be downcast. He believed the Government's proposals were adequate and that any unforeseen emergencies would be met with a stout heart.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says—

On the 17th at 11.55 a.m. the barometer has fallen in the Sea of Japan, and remains almost steady on the China coast. A depression which was lying W. of the Loochoos yesterday, has probably moved N.E. and is now off S.W. Japan this morning. The pressure is highest over N. China. Gradients moderate with fresh to strong monsoon on the coast and in the N.E. of the China Sea. FORECAST—Fresh N.E. winds; fair.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

OWING to pressure on our news columns we are forced to hold over our Legal Intelligence until Monday.

PENANG RUMOUR has it that Sir Frederick Cardew, Governor of Sierra Leone, has been offered and has accepted the Governorship of the Straits Settlements.

A THUNDERSTORM was raging over Lantau Island last night, the lightning flashes being very vivid and the peals of thunder long and loud. Such a phenomenon is not at all usual at this season.

In a letter to the Rector of a German Polytechnic Academy, the Kaiser says he regards Socialism as an ephemeral phenomenon which will die out. He counts on technical high schools to settle the social question in Germany.

The English mail *Commodore* was quarantined on arrival this morning owing to one of the Asiatic crew having contracted small-pox on the voyage. The passengers and mails were landed, however, after the vessel had been medically inspected and the patient removed to Kennedy town.

H.M. FIRST CLASS CRUISER *Argonaut*, on being relieved by the *Amphitrite* in the Channel Squadron, will leave for the China Station. Both are new ships of 11,000 tons and 18,000 horse-power, armed with 16 six-inch guns, besides several smaller guns. The *Amphitrite* is said to have been selected to relieve the *Undaunted*.

ON Monday afternoon, on the Happy Valley, the Hongkong Football Club will play H.M.S. *Victoria*. Kick-off at half-past four. The Club team will be—F. H. Kew, goal; B. C. M. Johnston and W. H. Howard, backs; S. L. Jenkins, C. T. Kew and T. W. Hornby, halves; A. R. Lowe, J. E. Lee, J. F. Noble, H. C. R. Hancock and J. D. Danby, forwards.

THE Band of the Hongkong Regiment will play at the Hongkong Hotel, this evening, from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME.

1. March—"Pomp and Circumstance" (W. G. Barry).

2. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

3. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

4. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

5. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

6. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

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36. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

37. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

38. "The Girl of the Year" (J. H. Williams).

to the indisposition of Col. the Hon. R. H. B. B. B.

This is the second time in 4 years that "C" Coy. have had the shield in their possession, and if they go on at this rate we should not be at all surprised to see them come home with the H.K. challenge shield. At any rate the Engineers will have all their work cut out for them.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON MR. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

The following is the memorandum by Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, on the protest against Ordinance No. 40 of 1899, laid on the table at the last Council meeting:

1. In considering the reasons for introducing and passing this Ordinance, it should be remembered that the New Territory was taken over on the 17th April last, on which date the British flag was hoisted under the circumstances detailed in the correspondence already published. The population of the territory is estimated at about 100,000, being composed of people of Chinese race only. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Chinese are as a race suspicious and have a dread of their own officials. The reasons for this dread are well known, and may be aptly illustrated by the following experience of one of the inhabitants of the New Territory, which occurred when he was subject to Chinese jurisdiction. An attack was made upon his house by a large armed gang of robbers. He shot three and succeeded in beating the others off. The robbers complained to the Magistrate, who summoned him to attend, but made him pay \$50 before he would see him. After hearing the case the Magistrate ordered the sufferer to pay the full expenses of those shot, the other assailants being allowed to go free. It is not surprising, therefore, that the inhabitants of the New Territory, who have hitherto been accustomed to such justice, should be disinclined to appear before those in authority. Since the taking over of the New Territory every effort has been made to overcome this disinclination, but it is difficult to overcome at once the centuries, and it is not therefore unnatural that there should have been refusals on the part of the inhabitants to attend before the British Officials, who they fear may accord to them the treatment which they have been accustomed to receive. Every effort has been made to remove these suspicions. Thousands of notices and leaflets have been published and circulated throughout every village in the territory, and British Officials have regularly visited each district and sub-district and endeavoured to dispel groundless suspicions and fears by explaining fully the policy of the Government and the objects of the various measures taken.

2. Mr. Whitehead seems to think that any law he has introduced from time to time, the Government has also met all the intentions of the Government, as may be seen from His Excellency's speech, a copy of which is attached. Two thousand Chinese versions of this speech were printed and distributed throughout the territory. The steps already taken have helped to partially dispel the doubts existing in the minds of the people, but the deep-rooted suspicion of ages and the prejudices existing against a foreign rule cannot be entirely eradicated at once. The result is that, though many may feel inclined to appear before an official when requested to do so, they are deterred from following their own inclination either because they do not wish to seem to run counter to popular feeling or are afraid, in view of their experiences under Chinese rule, that instead of receiving any benefit they will be sufferers. Invitations have frequently been sent to Chinese either to meet officials in their own villages or to attend at Tai-po, the headquarters of Government in the New Territory, in order to receive explanations regarding the registration of land, the objects of the survey of the New Territory, the preservation of trees, and other matters regarding which ignorance was creating unrest in the minds of the people. These invitations have been either partially or entirely disregarded. When, however, steps were taken to enforce the attendance of those in the way of proclamation and leaflets to inform the people of the intentions of the Government. Thousands of notices on a variety of subjects have been posted in each village, and as I have already stated, two thousand copies of the Chinese translation of the speech of the Governor to the Committee-men were distributed. A Chinese translation of the Ordinance creating the Committee of the Honourable Ho Kai and two thousand copies distributed. In addition to the publication of notices and distribution of leaflets, officials have visited each village in the territory in person and explained orally to the villagers such points as were thought to require further elucidation.

3. Paragraph 10.—I have already explained what the main object of the Ordinance is, so it is unnecessary for me to again point out that, though the land question is the most important, there are other matters almost equally important regarding which the attendance of the inhabitants is necessary from time to time.

4. Paragraph 11.—As regards this paragraph, the Ordinance can only be held by direction of the Governor. As to the confidence reposed in the Governor by the Chinese, I may quote the Honourable Ho Kai, speaking on the Pö Lung Kuk Incorporation Ordinance in Legislative Council on the 2nd June, 1893, stated as follows:—

(Hansard, page 93.) "We have in this Colony a Governor and we always look upon him as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, and as Chinese subjects here, and also as subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, it is only fair to suppose that they would wish to desire to submit the final decision of their differences to the Governor alone."

I am certain that the Chinese, whether in Hongkong or in the New Territory will be quite satisfied of the necessity and justice of any enquiry the Governor may direct to be held.

5. As to Mr. Whitehead's remarks regarding the department of the Registrar General, they are not surprising as coming from one who stated in Council in 1893—"I would sweep away if I could the Registrar General's Department." It is not to be wondered at that he regards it as the least qualified of any department to exercise the powers conferred by the Ordinance and as incapable of impartiality. But when he deals with a department, which he considers should be swept away, one would expect accuracy in the statement of facts regarding it. It is not the case that junior members of the Civil Service have frequently acted as Registrar General. The present holder of the post has 20 years' service, and those who have acted for him have invariably been officers of standing, who have been specially qualified for the post.

6. In paragraph 11 Mr. Whitehead states that the Registrar General "may be and almost necessarily must be in the hands of the Chinese in his department." And in paragraph 12 he states, by quoting Dr. Ho Kai, that the Chinese "generally are entirely at the mercy of the Registrar General." That is, the Registrar General is one, time the slave and at another the master of the Chinese. This is not the first occasion on which Mr. Whitehead has made

use of the remarks by Dr. Ho Kai. On page 93 of Hansard 1893 Dr. Ho Kai protests against such use in the following words:—

"The Honourable Member of Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Whitehead) quoted 'one of my speeches on the subject in which I spoke against the advisability of the Registrar General getting people, Chinese gentlemen, individually, into his office and asking them their opinions on certain subjects. The quotation is a very long one. I do not propose to read it, but it is found in the report (i.e., on the Pö Lung Kuk) on page 13. Upon that the Honourable Member seemed to think that the Registrar General should not consult the Chinese, but that he should be outside and above them. He misunderstood me and took just the opposite view to that which I wished to convey in that speech. I meant to say that the Registrar General should not ask to his office, but individually to come to his office, but I never intended that the Registrar General should not have the Chinese assembled in his office and discuss matters openly. That has been done, though not in his Committee (i.e., the Committee of the Pö Lung Kuk) because we have not yet appointed a Committee, and I do not know whether in former times it has been done, but I do know, since I have been a member of it, that the District Watchmen Committee, that we discuss and decide by the vote of the majority, and I venture to believe that, though sometimes the Registrar General has been in the minority, he thinks that his dignity has not been affected and that it was not derogatory to his high position to be out-voted."

7. The remarks of Dr. Ho Kai, as Mr. Whitehead states, are not wholly pertinent to the present subject, but used as they have been, entirely apart from their context, they are quite misleading. As a matter of fact, Mr. Whitehead wished to place the Registrar General and above the Committee of the Pö Lung Kuk, and the words of Dr. Ho Kai, "to place them under the thumb of the Registrar General." Both the Registrar General and Dr. Ho Kai successfully opposed Mr. Whitehead on the occasion in question, and objected to the Chinese being placed in such a position.

8. The following extracts from Hansard pp. 60-3, 1893, are interesting in view of Mr. Whitehead's present attitude:—

"Honourable T. H. Whitehead:—I say 'the Registrar General has exercised a wise control which has been very effective, and which has also been very effective; and I think it would be a great pity if that control should be given up and disappear.'"

"The Registrar General:—I say again that the Registrar General does not want to be placed in the position of the dictator of the Chinese and it is no use for the Honourable Member who represents the Chamber of Commerce to fence with words. That is undoubtedly the position he wishes to place the Registrar General in."

"Honourable T. H. Whitehead:—They have said themselves that their object is to put the Registrar General under their thumb in fact, to control the Registrar General."

"Honourable Ho Kai:—I think that our leading Chinese would prefer to be placed continually under an intelligent official rule rather than be placed under the unreasonable and illiberal treatment of an unofficial régime."

9. Paragraph 12.—Mr. Whitehead states that the Registrar General's Department was entrusted with power somewhat similar to those in the present Ordinance in connection with broodhills, and so allowed those powers that after enquiry they were taken away by Ordinance 1 of 1897.

This statement is quite misleading. So far from the powers of the Registrar General's Department having been curtailed they have been considerably increased since 1897. Indeed, the Ordinance for the Protection of Women and Children conferred greater powers on the Registrar General than he had ever possessed before.

Mr. Whitehead must surely remember that, in view of the great and sundry powers conferred on the Registrar General by that Ordinance, it was considered necessary, by resolution of the Legislative Council, to resolve the Ordinance from time to time, by resolution of the Council, that the Registrar General should be a member of Council when such resolutions were brought before Council and passed. After that Ordinance had been in force for some time, experience showed that it had been worked successfully and that the great powers which it conferred were not abused. As a result, the Ordinance was made permanent on the Statute Book, and Mr. Whitehead was amongst those members of Council who gave their vote in favour of this course.

10. Paragraph 14.—Mr. Whitehead points out that there is no provision in the Ordinance for payment to the person summoned of his expenses in coming to Hongkong, and that in Hongkong of his return, and compensation for his loss of time. As I have previously pointed out, on the two occasions on which the inhabitants of the New Territory were brought to Hongkong, they were provided with conveyance and well looked after. This paragraph seems to infer that in every case in which a person's attendance is desired, he will be brought to Hongkong. There is no such intention. Attendance in Hongkong will be the exception and not the rule, as has hitherto been the case, and if persons are brought to Hongkong, conveyance as heretofore will be provided and they will be properly cared for.

11. Paragraph 15.—The Government has any legitimate enquiries to make it should carry out these enquiries on the spot, in the village to which they refer."

I have already pointed out that officers regularly visit the various villages, and it stands to reason that if the enquiries made and explanations given locally are satisfactory, no further attendance of persons will be necessary.

12. Paragraph 16.—There is only one point in this paragraph to which I desire to allude and that is the reference to what Mr. Whitehead calls the "alleged land jobbery in connection with the New Territory." It is true that there were many rumours on that subject after the New Territory had been taken over and a suggestion was made that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed. I pointed out on the 3rd May last (see Blue Book despatches and other papers relating to the Extension of Hongkong, Sessional Paper No. 32/1899, p. 52) that it would be best, in the first instance, for the Land Officer in the New Territory to investigate the matter as he could call to him the landholders in each district to make with him any complaint they might have to make which could be enquired into on the spot, and that, if the investigation, a Commission was considered desirable it could be appointed. The Governor concurred in my proposal. On the 12th July the Governor issued a Chinese proclamation regarding land, which was posted throughout the villages in the New Territory. I attach an English version of the Proclamation and beg to draw attention to the last paragraph, which is to the following effect:—

"If any one has been forcibly deprived of his land or been fraudulently induced to sell land at a low price he may present a petition to the District Officer if he lives North of the Kowloon Ranges of Hills, or if he lives South of it to the Registrar General or his Visiting Officer, to be forwarded to the Squatters Board for enquiry."

On the 2nd and 4th August last, the Governor was met by the Committees of the sub-districts at Tai-po and Ping Shan, when he concluded his speech on both occasions in the following words:—

"I wish to add a few more words on the subject of land. It had been reported to me (that is soon as the Convention between the Emperor of China and the Queen of Great Britain was signed, certain people were induced to sell their lands at a low value by being told that the British Government would take possession of the land without payment when they came into the Territory. I take this opportunity of telling you, the Elders and the Gentry of all the Villages, that if any man has been induced to sell his land by these false misrepresentations, and he is not satisfied he can give notice to the Land Officer who will register the title of the real question at issue has been asked into and decided. I have mentioned all this before by proclamation, but I wish to emphasize it more strongly now. I see the Gentry and Elders before me, as I am determined that if any man has been improperly induced to give his land away under its value, I will not accept the sale as valid."

It will be seen that the Government has spared neither pains nor time in trying to discover whether land has been obtained by false misrepresentations. Up to the present time 25,340 claims to land have been registered, and not a single complaint has as yet been received of any person having bought or sold land as has been rumoured.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

HONGKONG, Friday, February 16th.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts, in their weekly share report, state:—

The market has been fairly firm throughout the week and rates for most stocks are steady. The China-Borneo Company, Limited, has advertised its First Annual Meeting for the 28th February. The transfer books close from the 14th to 28th instant, both days inclusive. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks continue quiet with sales and sellers at 333 per cent. premium. The London quotation is £60. Nationals are offering at \$6. The net profit for the last year amounts to \$103,362.77 from which the Directors propose to place \$21,023.25 to Capital Reserve Fund, pay a dividend of \$1.36 per share, transfer \$17,533.55 to Reserve Fund and carry forward \$9,584.01. Marine Insurance Co.—Vanguards are firm with buyers at \$177. Canton has been fixed at \$130. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong \$340, \$345 and \$350 closing with further buyers. The report shows a profit of \$244,419.6 for 1898, from which it is proposed to pay a dividend of \$27 per share and transfer \$244,419.19 to Reserve Fund. China Fires are steady at \$353. It is recommended to pay a dividend of \$50 per share. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamships have been sold at \$291. Indo-China Steamships have been sold at \$87. China and Manila have been bought at \$95. \$97 and \$100. Douglas Steamships are steady at \$50. Refineries.—China Sugars have come into strong request at \$130 and \$131. Mining.—Punions are firmer and have buyers at \$53. Rauba have been fixed at \$63. Olives "B" have changed hands at \$43. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have quiet and are in the market at \$50 per cent. premium. Kowloon Wharf and Godowns have been sold at \$216. Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$126. Humphreys' Estate have been negotiated at \$97 and \$98. China Providents have been booked at \$923 and \$935. Cigar Companies.—Allambras are wanted at 110 per cent. premium. Cotton Mills.—We have heard of no local business in stocks under this heading. Miscellaneous.—Green Island Cements have been sold at \$28 and \$28. China Borneo have been sold at \$16. A. S. Watsons have advanced to \$17 sales and sellers. Electric have been taken off the market at \$14 and \$14.14. Rogers have been booked at \$335 sales. Fenicks have changed hands at \$49 and \$50. Hongkong Icees are firm at \$167.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1564.—Michael Angelo died.
1843.—Defeat of the Spanish Chiefs at Mecerance by Sir Charles Napier.
1848.—New Orleans presented to the 95th Regiment at Hongkong.
1861.—Duchess of Albany born.
1863.—Charleston and Wilmington occupied by the Federals.
1889.—Attempted assassination of the Czar.
1897.—Capture of Benin.

15-MORROW.

Sunday, 18th February, 1900.
Chinese—18th of 1st moon of 26th year of K'uang-shi.
Sun—Rises 6hr. 32min.
Sets 5hr. 37min.
High water—Morning 10hr. 57min.
Afternoon 4hr. 37min.
Low water—Morning 4hr. 37min.
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1855.—The crew of the *Argyll* released by the Chinese authorities.
1841.—A boat of the *Nemesis* fired upon at Wangtung Island.
1853.—The U.S.S. *Albatross* wrecked on East Lammock.
1884.—Telegraphic communication between Haiphong and Saigon established.

AGENDA.

TO-DAY.
9 a.m.—A. D. C. Yeoman of the Guard at City Hall.
TO-MORROW.
CHURCH SERVICES.
St. John's Cathedral.—Communion, 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.
Roman Catholic Cathedral.—Mass at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and 9 a.m. Benediction, 5 p.m.
Union Church.—Services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
German Bethesda Chapel, West Point.—Morning Service, 11 a.m.
St. Francis Church, Wanchai.—Mass (Chin.), 6 a.m., (Port.), 7:30 a.m. Benediction, 5 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road.—Morning Service (English), 9 a.m.
St. Anthony's Chapel, West Point.—Mass, 8 a.m.
 Wesleyan Methodist Church.—Services, 10:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
St. Peter's Seamen's Church.—11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
(About) N. L. H. A. steamer *Habetsberg*, leaves for Havre and Hamburg.

MORNING, 19th.

300, 315 and 330 p.m.—Auction sale of Crown lands, at Mon-kok-tsu, Barker Road.
4:30 p.m.—Football H. K. F. C. v. H.M.S. *Victorious*.
5:30 p.m.—E. G. Launch leaves S. M. Pier for Stonecutters, E.L. run.
S. T. N. Y. L. steamer *Queen Eleanor*, leaves for New York.

SHIRE LINE steamer *Denishurst*, leaves for Japan.

TUESDAY, 20th.

Daylight E. & A. steamer *Guthrie*, leaves for Australia and Br.
Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Stenor* for London.

their bicycles. Among other individual members of the community whom we noted were: Mrs. and Miss Salzmann, Lady Cox and the Misses Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Fittell, Mr. and Mrs. Trotter, Dr. and Mrs. Fowle, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, the Minister of the Presbyterian Church, and Messrs. Cuthbertson, Moulds, Wise, Bland, Bullen, Lloyd, Pickering, Saunders, Greig, and indeed dozens of others whom it is not possible to name, not for lack of respect but, for lack of memory. Ungku Khalid may be said to have represented Johore, while the non-English community may be said to have been represented by Mr. and Madame de Brandt and Mr. and Mrs. Romanji. Nearly all the officers of the garrison were, of course, present, and so were the officers of the S.V.A. Promptly at 8 o'clock the ropes were cast off and with the music of the band, and amidst the cheering of the people, the great ship passed out to the tideway. She takes with her the best wishes of this city for the man who is to lead the Fourth Cavalry Brigade; and on Sunday the name of Dickens will be foremost in the thoughts of those who kneel before the Altar of God to pray for the British army in South Africa.—*Straits Times*.

SUSPECTED INTENTION TO MURDER LORD ROBERTS.

The journey of Field Marshal Lord Roberts on the *Donatour* to Gibraltar, at which place the vessel touched for the purpose of taking on board Lord Kitchener, was marked by a singular incident. Every care was taken on board the steamer to ensure the safety of the new commander-in-chief of the South African forces, sentries being constantly placed at the door of his cabin. The movements of a man in the vicinity of Lord Roberts' cabin excited the suspicions of the sentry. He reported the circumstance to the officer on duty, and the man was at once placed under arrest. Being searched, a revolver was found in his possession, and on the arrival of the *Donatour* at Gibraltar he was put on shore.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

Captain Ball, of the steamship *Perrins*, from Amoy, reports:—Fresh N.E. breeze and overcast throughout.

Captain V. van, of the steamship *Denishurst*, from London, reports:—Very strong wind and latter part of voyage from Singapore.

NOTANDA.

CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY.

Metereological mean based on fifteen years observations to 1898.

Barometer..... 30.14
Thermometer..... 57.3
Humidity..... 79.0
Rainfall..... 1.76

TO-DAY.

Barometer..... 30.17 30.07
Thermometer..... 59 59
Humidity..... 81 79
Rainfall..... 0.01

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HONGKONG RACES.

Noon—Inlo-China *Kamsang* leaves for Calcutta.

WEDNESDAY, 21st.

(About) C. & O. steamer *Belgian King*, leaves for San Diego and San Francisco.

Imperial German mail steamer *Oldenburg*, leaves, with mails, for Europe.

HONGKONG RACES.

THURSDAY, 22nd.

(About) P. & O. steamer *Canton*, leaves for London.

HONGKONG RACES.

H.K.V.C. ORDERS.

3 p.m. E. Co. E. L. run at Lyemum, Launch leaves S. M. Pier.

FRIDAY, 23rd.

Noon—T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, leaves for San Francisco.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE.

German (*Oldenburg*) 20th inst.

American (*Algon*) 20th inst.

German (*Stuttgart*) 22nd inst.

Canadian (*Empress of Japan*) 23rd inst.

American (*China*) 23rd inst.

American (*Doric*) 1st prox.

American (*Nippon Maru*) 9th prox.

The N. P. S. Co.'s steamer *Tacoma*, has arrived at Yokohama and sailed for Tacoma, this morning.

The N. Y. K. steamer *Kasuga Maru*, Australian Line left Nagasaki for this port yesterday and is expected to arrive here on the 20th inst.

The C. P. R. Co.'s R.M.S. *Empress of India*, arrived at Shanghai at 2 a.m. Saturday, the 17th inst., and leaves at 11 p.m. for Nagasaki, where she is due to arrive at 8 a.m. Monday, the 19th.

The C. P. R. Co.'s R.M.S. *Empress of Japan*, arrived at Yokohama at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, Friday the 16th February, and left again at 3 p.m. same day for Kobe, where she is due to arrive at 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 17th February.

HONGKONG AND

Insurances.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

FINAL FIGURES FOR 1899.

THE Head Office of the Eastern Branch has now received a further Telegram giving the revised figures for the last year, which show an increase, both in Assets and Surplus upon the previous year.

The final figures are:—

ASSETS.

\$58,373,185.

SURPLUS.

\$12,732,303.

NEW BUSINESS.

1899.

\$42,354,548.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS.

on 31st December.

\$210,070,088.

F. KIENE,

Acting Manager,

No. 9, Praya, Hongkong.

[1899]

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned AGENTS of the above Company are prepared to accept First Class FOREIGN and CHINESE RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

SIEMSEN & Co.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1895.

Intimations.

TREASURY.

TENDERS for SPECIES, MEXICAN DOLLARS, Current in this Colony, and weighing 7.175, in Exchange for Sterling Bills drawn at 10 days' sight on the London Commission of Her Majesty's Treasury, London, will be received by the Officer in Charge of H.M. Treasury, until 11 A.M., on THURSDAY, the 22nd instant.

The Tenders to state the total amount required (in Pounds Sterling), and the amount for which each Bill should be drawn, but no Bills will be issued for sums less than £100.

The Tenders, to be in Duplicate and in sealed covers, addressed to the Officer in Charge of H.M. Treasury, and endorsed "Tenders for Treasury Bills."

The right to accept or reject any or all of the Tenders is reserved.

E. H. GORGES, Colonel,

Her Majesty's Treasury Office,

Queen's Road,

Hongkong, 15th February, 1900.

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HONGKONG AND WHARF DOCK CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Offices of the Company, Queen's Buildings, New Praya, on MONDAY, the 26th February, 1900, at 3 o'clock P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1899.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 12th to 26th February, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

THOS. L. ROSE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1900.

[127b]

THE CHINA-BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FIRST ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, No. 4, Queen's Buildings, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th day of February, at 12 o'clock (NOON), to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1899, and the Report of the General Managers, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 12th to 28th instant, both days inclusive.

J. WHEELEY,

Manager.

Hongkong, 12th February, 1900.

[191b]

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company, will be held at the Offices of the Company, Padders Street, on THURSDAY, the 1st day of March, 1900, at 12 o'clock (NOON), to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1899, and the Report of the General Managers, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 15th February to the 1st March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Managers.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1900.

[129b]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, Victoria, on THURSDAY, the 22nd instant to the 8th March, both days inclusive.

By Order,

GEO. L. TOMLIN,

Secretary.

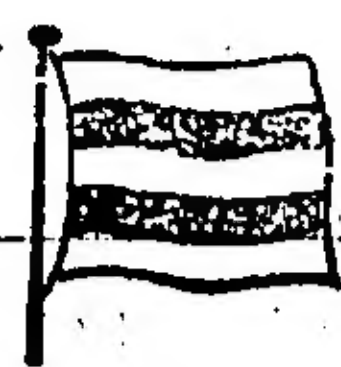
Hongkong, 9th February, 1900.

[171b]

Mails.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.)



PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
WAKASA MARU J. B. MacMillan	MARSEILLES, LONDON & ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO and PORT SAID.	FRIDAY, 23rd Feb, at Daylight.
KASUGA MARU E. W. Haswell	MANILA, THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE.	FRIDAY, 23rd Feb, at 4 P.M.
FUTABA MARU J. Thom	NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKO- HAMA	SATURDAY, 24th Feb, at Noon.
MIKE MARU S. Kawamura	DOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE and COLOMBO	FRIDAY, 2nd March, at Noon.

For further information as to Freight, Passage, Sailings, &c., apply at the Company's Local Branch Office at No. 7, Praya Central.

A. S. MIHARA,

Manager.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1900.

[6]

NORDEUTSCHER

LLOYD.



HAMBURG-AMERIKA

LINE.

(Freight Service.) (Freight Service.)
(Taking Cargo at through Rates to ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, LISBON, OPORTO, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, TRIESTE, GERA, PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA and BALTIC PORTS; NORTH and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.)

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
ALBESIA Knuth	BORDEAUX, HAVRE & HAMBURG. (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	27th February.
ASTORIA Hildebrandt	NEW YORK. (via SUEZ CANAL.)	About 18th March.
SAVOIA Kreth	HAVRE and HAMBURG. (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	About 22nd March.
HEIDELBERG Schneider	HAVRE and HAMBURG. (LONDON with transshipment in HAMBURG)	About 31st March.

* These Steamers have Superior Accommodation for Passengers and carry a Doctor and a Stewardess.

For further Particulars as to Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

CARLOWITZ & Co.,

Agents.

[22]

TOYO KISEN KAISHA. U.S. MAIL LINE.

TO SAN FRANCISCO, VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

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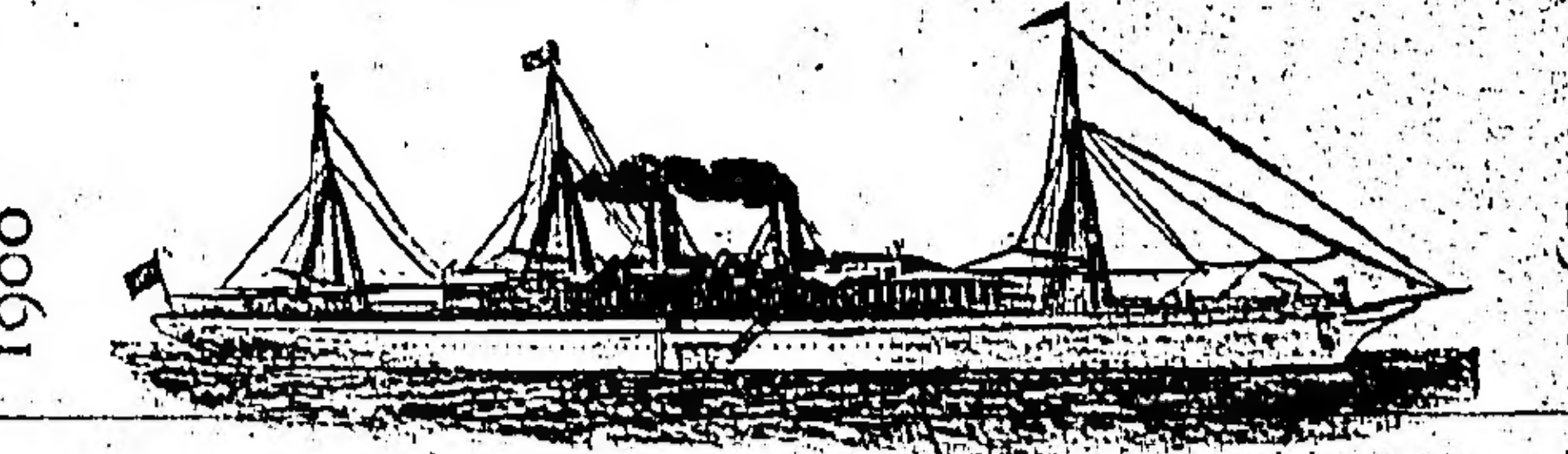
VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.



SAFETY. SPEED. PUNCTUALITY.

THE FAST ROUTE BETWEEN CHINA, JAPAN AND EUROPE, VIA CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

(CALLING AT SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, YOKOHAMA & VICTORIA, B.C.)

Twin Screw Steamships—6,000 Tons—10,000 Horse Power—Speed 19 knots.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN...Comdr. Geo. A. Lee, R.N.R. ...WEDNESDAY, 14th March.

EMPRESS OF CHINA...Comdr. R. Archibald, R.N.R. ...WEDNESDAY, 4th April.

EMPRESS OF INDIA...Comdr. O. P. Marshall, R.N.R. ...WEDNESDAY, 25th April.

THE magnificent Twin-screw Steamships of this Line pass through the famous INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, and usually make the voyage YOKOHAMA TO VANCOUVER (B.C.) in 12 DAYS, saving THREE DAYS TO A WEEK in the Trans-Pacific journey, and make connection at Vancouver with the PALATIAL TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAINS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY which leave daily, and cross the Continent FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE ATLANTIC WITHOUT CHANGE. Close connection is made at Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, New York and Boston with all Trans-Atlantic Lines, which passengers to Great Britain and the Continent are given choice of.

Passengers Booked through to all principal points and AROUND THE WORLD. Return tickets to various points at reduced rates, Good for 4, 6, 9 and 12 months.

SPECIAL RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

The attractive features of the Company's route embrace its PALATIAL STEAMSHIPS, (second to none in the World), the LUXURANCE OF ITS TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAINS (the Company having received the highest award for same at recent Chicago World's Exhibition), and the diversity of MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAIN AND LAKE SCENERY through which the Railway passes.

THE DINING CARS and MOUNTAIN HOTELS of this route are owned and operated by the Company, and their appointments and Cuisine are unexcelled.

For further information, Maps, Guide, Books, Rates of Passage, &c., apply to

D. E. BROWN, General Agent, Padders Street.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1900.

[3]

CALIFORNIA AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATCHESON TOPEKA & SANTA FE RAILROAD CO.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG TO SAN DIEGO AND SAN FRANCISCO, VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

Taking Cargo and Passengers to JAPAN PORTS, and HONOLULU, THE UNITED STATES, &c.

Belgian King ... 3,379 ... about Feb. 25

Thyria ... 3,466 ... about Mar. 6

Lady Jancy ... 3,466 ... about Mar. 31

THE Steamship

"BELGIAN KING,"

will be despatched for SAN DIEGO and SAN FRANCISCO, VIA KOBE, YOKOHAMA and HONOLULU, on or about WEDNESDAY, the 28th February.

Through Bills of Lading issued to any point in the United States.

Cargo will be received on board until 5 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel packages will be received at the Office, until the same time. All parcels should be marked to address in full. Value of same is required.

Consular Invoices, to accompany cargo destined to Points beyond San Diego, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Diego.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, China and Japan.

Hongkong, 17th February, 1900.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

FOR VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA, IN CONNECTION WITH NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

ALSO FOR PORTLAND, OREGON, IN CONNECTION WITH OREGON RAILROAD AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

THE attention of Passengers is directed to the very cheap rates offered by the Line, HONGKONG TO LONDON £47.

Excellent accommodation. First-class Tables. DOCTOR and STEWARDESS carried.

HONGKONG TO NEW YORK £41.

The Railroad travelling is second to none on the American Continent. Magnificent Scenery of the ROCKY and CASCADE MOUNTAINS. The YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK route. Passengers to EUROPE may proceed by one of the first-class ATLANTIC MAIL LINES.

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Consular Invoices of Goods for United States Ports should be in quadruplicate, and one copy must be sent forward by the steamer to the Freight Agent, Tacoma, Wash., or Portland, Or. (whichever may be the destination of the Steamer).

Parcels must be sent to our Office (with address marked in full) by 5 P.M., on the day previous to sailing.

For further information apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, General Agents.

Hongkong, 9th February, 1900.

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Intimations.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

RACE MEETING, 1900.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, the 20th, 21st and 22nd February.

TICKETS of ADMISSION to the GRAND STAND and ENCLOSURE may be obtained from Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, Ltd. PRICE \$5 for the Meeting.

TICKETS for the Day may be purchased at the Gate. PRICE \$2 each.

No one admitted without a Ticket, to be shown to the Ticket Inspector at the Gate.

T. F. HOUGH,

Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1900.

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HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE STEWARDES request the pleasure of the presence of the LADIES at the GRAND STAND and ENCLOSURE during the Races on the 20th, 21st and 22nd instant.

An Enclosure will be reserved for Members and Members' Wives and Families. Tickets for which may be had on Application by Members to the Undersigned; said Tickets must be produced to gain Admission.

T. F. HOUGH,

Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1900.

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HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NO SERVANTS will be allowed inside the ENCLOSURE of the RACECOURSE during the Race Day without Tickets, which can be had on Application to the Undersigned.

T. F. HOUGH,

Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 14th February, 1900.

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Auctions.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

No. 35.

THE following Particulars of Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction, to be held at the Offices of the Public Works Department, on

MONDAY,

the 19th day of February, 1900, at 3 P.M., are published for general information.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

HOW OUR GUNS FOR SOUTH AFRICA ARE MADE.

SOME OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORKSHOPS AT THE WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

Never in the history of England has the subject of artillery been so universally discussed as at present. It is generally recognised that the weapons which the War Office has sent out to South Africa are unsuitable and insufficient for the work in hand, and the reverses which have attended the advance of the British forces were attributed in a great measure to that fact. Everybody is talking guns and gunnery; and, under the circumstances, some particulars about the making of field-pieces and the place where they are made, will not be without interest.

The guns for the British Navy and Army are turned out at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. There also our ammunition is made, from the smallest rifle cartridge to the huge shell fired by the 15-inch gun.

Perhaps nothing demonstrates more strikingly the might of the British Empire than a visit to the Woolwich Arsenal. Something like 18,000 men are employed there, many of them at the present crisis working night and day. The wages bill amounts to a million and a half annually, and three million pounds' worth of guns and ammunition are turned out in the twelve months. Perhaps the best idea of the magnitude of the place can be afforded by stating the fact that a complete service gains rifle between the factories. All trains are first, second, and third class, and they carry everybody, from the superintendent or the visiting Commander-in-Chief to the

YOUNGEST APPRENTICE LAD.

In a sense, the Arsenal illustrates the development of our Navy and Army, for here and there the visitor may see great piles of obsolete weapons, that in their day seemed the deadliest things in warfare. Now they are merely small mountains of scrap-iron. Should some of the guns now in South Africa have been added to those rubbish heaps? That is a question for future settlement.

From its earliest days the Woolwich Arsenal seems to have suffered from the excessive economy of the Government. The Arsenal, which was founded in 1597, had been suddenly plunged into war between the years 1870-80 a decisive defeat of the British arms would have been inevitable; for parsimony on the part of the gentleman who kept the national purse had resulted in the store of cartridges becoming so reduced that at one time it was found necessary to transfer half a million rounds from the northern depots to London to meet immediate wants.

This state of affairs was pointed out to a well-known Cabinet Minister. The danger of it, the certainty of defeat if war broke out were dilated upon.

"Gentlemen," the Minister replied, "are there not lamp-posts in Pall-mall? And when that defeat comes the populace will make a big effort to utilise them?"

Did he mean that the lamp-posts would be converted into cannon, or that the populace would take refuge up them?

Such then, is one of the difficulties that the admirable staff at Woolwich Arsenal have to deal with. But they themselves in days gone by, by no means more than once. A huge mortar was forged in 1835 with a view to its being used in the Crimea. It had a bore of 36 in. The shells to feed it were so enormous that special appliances had to be erected to hoist them into its capacious maw. When the day of tri-umphant came the monster cracked! It was all a mist take from beginning to end. The gun is now used at the Arsenal for merely decorative purposes; it would certainly never have been of any use.

There is a gigantic steam hammer which may be said to be unique among the relics. In the days of the iron muzzle-loader this machine was erected for the purpose of welding the great coils of iron, and it has a striking energy of 1,000 tons! White-hot iron used to melt under its pressure like butter before a fire.

Now our most modern heavy guns are made of steel and wire. The latter is wrapped round the inner tube, and really forms one of the skins of the gun. In the case of a 12 in. gun no less than 100 miles of wire are used, and, although the most ingenious contrivances are employed in this wrapping process, it would not be completed in less than three weeks if the men worked night and day! This wire has to bear a strain of over ninety tons to the square inch!

To watch the process of turning a 6 inch gun—the class being sent to the war—none would imagine that the ponderous steel tubes were nothing more than wood, and that the thin strips which fly before the lathe were merely shavings. At one time the lady visitor to Woolwich would invariably be presented by some clever and surprising apprentice with a bracelet made from the chips of steel. The boys used to occupy their leisure time in fashioning the ornaments. But now they have no leisure time, in their way they are very busy helping to wipe that "something off a plate," and the lady visitor must perforce to forego the souvenir.

Another very interesting process is the rifling of a field piece. A steel cutter is fixed at the end of a massive rod, which is driven along the interior of the tube by an ingenious but simple piece of machinery. It is a rather prolonged business, and may occupy any length of time up to fourteen days.

The main object of rifling is to insure greater accuracy of aim than is possible with a smooth-bore gun. But it has been found that the grooves have a tendency to wear away after a succession of shots. Usually a heavy gun requires relining after about 150 rounds have been fired. When the breach has been fixed the gun is painted and is ready for use, having—in the case of a 6-inch gun—cost from first to last about £2,500. It has absorbed the energies of 500 men, and machinery representing 600 horse-power. The 6-inch gun being sent to the front can be fired at the rate of five shots a minute.

A few words about the shells these guns fire—and first place to the lyddite class, to the power of which the Boers have voluntarily testified. Lyddite shells are a comparatively recent addition to our munitions. They were used in warfare for the first time at Omdurman, where they played havoc with the Moslems.

Each kind of shell at Woolwich is painted a distinctive colour. The complexion of the lyddite shell is yellow—a colour which suggests that of the terrible explosive. When a lyddite shell strikes anything, it leaves its mark behind it in a double sense. If it does not annihilate the object it is aimed at, it brands it a yellowish colour. No doubt many of the buildings behind which the Boers hide have been thus decorated. Chemists have discovered that lyddite is itself an excellent cure for "bores." (What incongruity!) Of other kinds of shell shrapnel is coloured a vivid red, while the armour-piercing variety have a white ring painted just below the point.

All shells at present used by the British War Office may be divided into three great groups, viz., the armour-piercing, the common shell, and the shrapnel. The first-named relies solely on its own weight and the force with which it is discharged to pierce with its sharp, hardened point the armour of an enemy. On contact it explodes, and thus completes its deadly work. The common shell, deprived of point, is used mainly for the damage it causes

by the bursting of the charge within it. It is provided with a time fuse, and on exploding breaks into hundreds of pieces, causing death and destruction all round it.

The shrapnel differs by reason of the fact that it contains hundreds of bullets, which are calculated to work fearful havoc among a body of advancing troops.

The weight of one of these shells is almost incredible. The 15-inch gun, for instance, hurls a steel projectile weighing 1,500 lbs. (or a ton) a distance of nine miles. So that when the British guns do "begin to speak" their voices carry no little distance.—*Advocate of India.*

THE BOER SOLDIER

(BY POULTNEY DOWELL.)

On the occasion of my visit to the Transvaal in the year made memorable by the Jameson raid, and the imperial cable to Paul Kruger, there was much military stir, and speculation was already then in the air regarding a possible conflict between Boer and Briton. President Kruger received me in a house protected by an escort of mounted police, and when I called upon General Joubert his office resembled a museum of modern rifles, for he was discussing with his colleagues the relative merits of Mauser, Krug Jorgenson, Martini-Henry, Lebel, and other makes. Above the town German engineers were constructing artillery positions which I was not allowed to inspect, or even approach. From a distance I was reminded of some of the forts about Metz. The commander of the National Artillery, a broad-faced, good-natured Boer, and who looked to me somewhat odd in the Austrian uniform, showed me over his camp and dwell with pride upon the new barracks and stables in course of erection. His artillery was physically a good-looking set of young men; the equipment appeared to be of the best quality; the Krupp guns were well cared for, and there was besides an anomalous battery made up of what was captured from Jameson. The Cape cart in which that invader had made his progress was treasured as carefully as the coach in which Napoleon fled from the field of Waterloo.

But of all the military things in and about Pretoria none was so significant to me as a piece of artillery which had seen service in the war of 1881. The whole of this machine might have been constructed by an average village blacksmith. The tires of ex-wagons had been heated and then wound round and round round a cylindrical rod, and so hammered together as to pass for a cannon by those of us who have seen specimens constructed in the Middle Ages. This strange instrument was mounted on the forward end of a bullock wagon, and the main body of it must have been done by gunners who believed in a special providence in lieu of rifling.

The Boers love this crazy old gun, for it symbolises to them a capacity to improvise weapons, and wield them successfully when their cause seems desperate to the rest of the world.

The history of British rule in South Africa offers many instances of English and Dutch fighting side by side against the common enemy, but we never saw any more when the Boer has regarded resistance to the redoubt as his highest duty. The bitter feeling which to-day arrays white men in the midst of a wilderness where united they are barely a match for the black, springs from a long chain of events, most of them highly creditable to the moral sense of the British Parliament, but so far as political sense is concerned, most unfortunate.

The battle of Waterloo not only resulted in populating St. Helena with Napoleon I, but made the Cape Colony the permanent home of a strong British administration. The year 1815 had not closed before this administration came into conflict on the borders of the Cape Colony with a certain Boer named Bezuidenhout, who declined to recognize the authority of a court messenger halting him for trial. This Boer was a rough frontiersman, who had as hazy a notion of government as some of Mark Twain's heroes who settled in Nevada and California half a century ago. Bezuidenhout was suspected of carrying on a contraband trade with the natives, and likewise of having threatened one of them. The charge may or may not have been well-founded, but in any case the Boers themselves were divided as to how far England had a right to stretch her arm into the Black Continent. Soldiers were sent out; Bezuidenhout resisted and was shot; his family and neighbours clamoured for vengeance, more soldiers and more Boers came into conflict, and finally, in 1816, six of the Boer leaders were tried for high treason and hung at a place called Slagter's Nek.

The Great Trek, a wholesale emigration of Boers from the Cape Colony to the uplands of the interior, did not commence until 1836, twenty years later. From Slagter's Nek there went forth a band of irreconcilable farmers or cowboys who had so long lived beyond the constraint of law that they could not reconcile themselves to any government. They had their counterpart in the American frontiersman, who, in these same years, was fighting his way, over the Allegheny mountains, down the Ohio river, and toward the Texas border.

While small parties of Boers were, in these early years, joining their brethren of roving, if not lawless, tastes on the fringes of the then civilized South Africa, the greater body of the people recognised the good intentions of the British Government and remained loyal. Things might have gone on smoothly enough but for an agitation in England whose object was the immediate abolition of slavery. This movement originated with men full of philanthropic zeal, but empty of political sagacity. The Boer farmers asked for many generations what their estates by means of slaves, was then universally the custom in all parts of the world where black men were to be found. The Boer recognised the desirability of treating slaves humanely—he was even prepared to abolish the institution by slow degrees. But he did resent the injustice and arrogance of London politicians and missionaries, who charged him with cruelty and denounced him as a semi-savage. Parliament, as we all know, voted a large sum for the purchase of slaves, but this sum, in the Cape Colony at least, proved to be so ridiculously inadequate that the farmers found themselves bankrupt as the result of this alleged generosity. Boers who owned slaves for whom they had paid £500 apiece were indemnified by an offer of £50 when at the same time each slave was mortgaged for seven months at a time. When the day of emancipation arrived, 1838, nothing could persuade the blacks to leave their work, and lonely farms were left valueless. A stroke of a philanthropic pen. A large and law-abiding population of Christian white men were thus forced to choose between remaining on a valueless farm, or trekking into the wilderness and conquering new territory from the wild natives. This Great Trek took them to the Orange Free State, to Natal and to the Transvaal. There was fighting at every stage of their journey, and the women loaded the muskets for their husbands and sons. This Great Trek was the school in which Paul Kruger was educated, and thus came to which there were no books, but the Bible and no mechanical arts, save those connected with the repair of a flint.

lock. These people left the mother colony, if not the mother country, in bitterness at the injustice they had experienced, and they retired into a wilderness where the past did not penetrate, and where no laws reached them of the grand progress in liberal legislation which marks the England of Queen Victoria's early years.

For the Boers had fought their way through Natal and settled at Durban, the English Government hid its hand upon the Colony, withdrew it again, and then changed its mind, and once more claimed it. It is fortunate for the commerce of the world that Natal is to-day English, for it is a pattern for other colonies and cities are in favourable contrast with those of the Boer Republic. But from the Boer point of view the behaviour of the English Government was capricious, if not shifty.

In 1835 Dutch and English had fought splendidly side by side in the Cape Colony against an invasion of 15,000 blacks, who had been for some time occupying in stealing cattle and destroying farm-houses. The amount of damage done has been officially assessed at £30,000, intended to cover the loss of 450 farm houses completely destroyed, 350 others partially destroyed and 660 farm wagons destroyed. The stock on property included about 9,000 horses, 112,000 cattle, and 162,000 sheep. The Boers fought bravely, suffered great hardships, and earned the gratitude of every colonist at the Cape, and notably that of the Governor, Sir Benjamin d'Urban, who called them out. They had been promised compensation for their losses during the war, and looked at least for grateful acknowledgment in Downing Street. The result, however, was a surprise for even now, from the Government's point of view, the Boers were regarded as fighting against the blacks—indeed, it was very evident that missionaries and not soldiers were in power at Westminster. This along with the ruin of their property, through the sudden abolition of slavery, brought to the side of the Boers a large portion of the wavering population, who were made to feel that while the black man could secure any favour through Exeter Hall, there was not even common justice for a Boer. The eighty years which have elapsed between the Battle of Waterloo and the Boer war have been years in which a large portion of Boers have handled the rifle as freely as we handle the pen. They have taught their way through black tribes outnumbering them ten to one. Some of their expeditions have been massacred, but the rest have not been discouraged. Even to-day the recreation of Boers who live in town is to go for a day's rifle shooting, if possible after game, if not, then at a target. Every Boer, from the Chief Justice down, knows how to cook in the open and organize a bivouac. It is safe to say that even today the average citizen of the Transvaal is ready at a moment's notice to take the field fully armed and equipped for at least three days.

The chief enemy of the Boer to-day is not England, but his own ignorance.

The Boer under the English flag enjoys more liberty than in the Transvaal, yet so ignorant are the burghers of "Oom Paul," that they persist in picturing Englishmen as tyrants desirous of overthrowing their freedom. Nowhere in English history have I heard more violent abuse of Englishmen than in the Transvaal. In Pretoria from the mouth of his own burghers—but these particular men happened to have travelled and observed for themselves that it is England which stands for freedom in things colonial, and that no such tyranny would be tolerated in Germany as disgraces the so-called Republic of South Africa. It is our business to look at Boers from their own side and thus to understand the grievances they entertain, in order that after the war the breach may be healed—let us hope for ever. To-day the Government is in the habit of receiving the official ranks from their brother Boers in adjoining colonies, they have confessed to an almost Chinese lack of capacity by drawing young clerks directly from Rotterdam, and exhibiting favoritism to isolate themselves from the great onward movement of the white race in South Africa. All this I believe to be bad for the Boers themselves, and therefore, in common with their most intelligent citizens, I hail the day when Krugerian shall have become in South Africa as impotent as the Mormon Government in Utah.

As to the war as a political necessity, at this moment it is not for us to express an opinion. But this much I may say, that the whole world has an interest in its speedy close and above all in its conduct, so that it may leave behind the least possible trace of animosity. Time works wonders in these matters, for many of us present, who can recall the hatred between Americans during the great Civil War, now witness their descendants fighting side by side for a united country. Boers and Britons have stood shoulder to shoulder in their wars with native tribes, and I for one, expect to see the day when we shall hear from the Cape to the Zambesi only one tongue, know only one union of free states, and see but one uniform under which shall best loyal hearts descended from the men who now face each other in anger.—*The Independent.*

THE LAST FAREWELL.

It was July. The relentless sun flared with tropical impetuosity upon Spring Court, West Central. It rays penetrated the little flat, on rather "upper part" of No. 4, and showed up its poor meagre furniture, low blackened ceiling, and worn-out boards. It also threw a halo of gold about the head of a woman as she sat working at a table by the window. Piles of manuscript lay at her side, and her pen moved rapidly as she covered sheet after sheet.

At length she moved, and going to the cupboard, made hastily meal of a sandwich and a glass of milk. She scarcely observed what she ate. Her whole soul was in her work, and her glass was hardly empty when she was back again, her pen flying still more rapidly.

A timid knock at the door, and a girl entered. She was about twelve years of age, and had the same golden-brown hair as her mother. The woman lifted her head.

"Is that you, Mary? Get your lunch, darling; you'll find it in the cupboard, I am very busy."

The girl put down her school-books, spread a table-cloth and proceeded in silence to her modest repast.

At length she spoke.

"Mother?"

"Yes, dear?"

"I saw Mrs. Sinclair to-day."

"What did she say?"

"She asked me again if I could sit for Mrs. Sinclair's picture."

Stella Adair pushed her manuscript away and rose. She was a woman with an intellectual face, and Mary resembled her to a remarkable degree. Both were artistically correct—from the high forehead and nose to the well-shaped hand and foot. Neither of these women would perhaps attract attention in a crowd; but beauty was too subdued, their dress too quiet.

"The mother absent-mindedly fingered a vase of cheap London flowers, and her thoughts went back fifteen years."

She was a young girl in her teens at that time, and she and Hugh had dearly loved one another. But Stella's parents were poor, and their daughter's beauty her sole dowry. No Hugh Sinclair was given his "conge," and a year after, was persuaded to marry a timely rich man devoted to the only daughter of well-bred parents.

Ah! how things had turned out since then! And the woman sighed.

Stella was the penniless wife of a convict; and Hugh Sinclair, the rising artist, was the fortunate husband of a wealthy, good-natured, if somewhat vulgar Jewess. Parents dead, penniless and proud, Mrs. Adair was just able by the work of her brain to support herself and her daughter in decency.

And now this strange thing had happened—Mrs. Sinclair had met Mary! Quite naturally, of course, and in this manner: Fussy, good-natured, and philanthropic, Mrs. Sinclair took a great interest in children and schools. She loved prize-givings, bazaars, and such-like, and one day came across Mary at a girls' concert.

Now, Mrs. Sinclair's two children resembled their mother; and, as that good lady heard Mary sing and marked her angelic face, eyes with long-lashed lashes and golden hair, she sighed and bethought her of Rachel and Rebecca.

"Such a pity! And Hugh so wanting a child's face for his masterpiece!"

However, one cannot have everything in this world; and the fates had given her unlimited wealth, a handsome husband, and two children.

The girls were gawky and good. "But—" And Mrs. Sinclair looked at Mary and sighed.

What would she not have given for a daughter like that?

And so, the kindly soul sought out Mary; found she was poor and fatherless, and asked her to come and play with Rachel and Rebecca.

To her surprise the invitation was refused. She renewed it, but the only response she could get was: "Mother did not allow her to go to parties." Poor Mary!

The girl seemed almost inclined to rebel. She loved luxuries and fine things. There was little to attract the eye in the upper part of that dear No. 4 in Spring Court, West Central.

Mrs. Sinclair had actually singled her out to be the girl to sing at the concert! It was really too bad of mother. So that it was somewhat pitiful that Mary responded over the bread and cold meat that frizzling day in July.

"Do you want to go to Mrs. Sinclair's Mary?"

The girl coloured with pleasure. Was her mother relenting?

"She has a beautiful home—and—"

"I said, do you want to go?"

"Yes, mother, I should like to" (eagerly).

Stella sighed. With all her toil, it was as much as she could do to decently clothe and send her girl to the High School. It was quite natural that the flashpots of Egypt attracted her.

And so Mary went, and Hugh Sinclair, sitting in his studio, started and paled as he saw the girl enter on his wife's arm.

It was to him a ghost out of the long-dead past.

"What is your name, my dear?" he asked, stroking gently the golden curls lying around her waist.

"Mary Adair."

And the timid, long-lashed eyes gazed up at him.

He shook his head. The name conveyed nothing to him but her eyes brought back a flood of thoughts.

And then, looking at the child for her own sake, the man said to himself:

"She is beautiful!"

"She is half-faded," said the more practical Jewess.

And she took Mary to her motherly heart. And indeed, beside Rachel and Rebecca, Mary did look fragile. And the good woman thought she would call and see Mrs. Adair, and get a loan of her girl for the summer holidays.

Poor Stella!

When the portly Jewess, rustling in rigid silk, went down the creaky staircase, the unhappy mother threw herself on her little bed, and wept tears of humiliation and pain. Not that her visitor was unkind; on the contrary, it was her kindness which was the difficulty.

And she was Hugh's wife! Hugh, whom she had just seen with paled and strained eyes when she had bidden him good-bye for ever.

But her mind ought not to brood the future of Mary. And Stella, drying her tears, proceeded to dust the shabby little old portmanteau wherein to pack her child's scant wardrobe.

"She is all I have, and I must give her up, too!" she thought bitterly; nor was the pain lessened when the girl appeared rosy with delight, full of the kindness of her new friends, and of gladness for her holiday.

"And, oh! mother, he paints such lovely pictures. And he says I am like a dear friend he had years and years ago. A dear friend he had, and he was to paint me."

The tears raced down Stella's cheeks as she bent over her child's things. She could see Hugh. He was the same as ever. His was not one of the forgetful loves. Her heart laughed behind its tears. Severance has, indeed, its sorrow, but the deadliest pang is to be forgotten!

And so Mary went off in high spirits, as unconscious of the mother's loneliness, the mother's grief, as in her bright childhood she was of her own beauty. Affairs, life has enough to do with living—it is only later that it slackens down to think.

"Yes, my dear," said the portly Mrs. Sinclair over her dessert. "Mrs. Adair is quite the lady—she did not assume anything. Quite the lady, but shockingly poor. It makes me quite ill to think of her rooms in that dreadful parlour, the shabbiness, and all. And yet, with her manner and looks—for she is quite beautiful—I never really took in the place till I was gone. When once upon a lady it's wonderful what one can do."

Poor, dear Mrs. Sinclair, that "once" is a long time coming to some! And yet I doubt not that, though long absent, her heart is in much of larger comfort and peace, as gentle, and great!

"Can't you help her? Couldn't she come down, too?"

His wife's face puckered.

"She is a very difficult person to help," she answered. "If I could, dear, I would, but I don't understand. But a sort of woman you could by no means take a liberty with. She would not have to alter her manner for any station."

"You have such tact, Ruth," passing his wife the port. "It seems wicked to leave a woman like that. 'You say the place is very poor'."

"All I can say is, that I never saw any place like it. It's only less of a surprise than the woman who lives in it."

And then, thoughtfully:

"I did try and say something about her coming to tea, to see your pictures or something."

She thanked me so nicely but said she rarely went out. What more could I say?"

"Poor thing!" said Hugh. For he, too, had been poor and proud once. And the fellow-feeling for all struggle remained with him now in his days of plenty, and gave, perhaps, that charm to her pictures which were making his name famous—fame which he valued only as some sort of recompense to Ruth. "At all events, we'll do what we can for the child, dear."

And so they did.

And Mary was decidedly an acquisition; one of those girls with a pretty shallow nature that finds a smileful way to people's hearts.

Hugh pined her in every conceivable attitude, and she became the veritable right hand of good Mrs. Sinclair. Thus went the months, and still she stayed, and still Stella had not the heart to recall her.

Once she came back for a night, so changed, indeed, that her mother cried all night, and turned her face to the wall in her sore heart-trouble.

Once when she knew Hugh was away, she went to Cadogan Gardens and saw his studio and Mary's picture.

It was herself, with the very dress she wore that summer-time long ago!

Then she returned to her lovely life, and wrote and wrote. Stella Adair was a name getting known to editors. There was something in her work full of heart. Light touches, as if her pen had been dipped in the deep fountains through which her life had passed. The days were turning from the sunshine. It was autumn with the worker and her work.

And, when wearing with incessant toil, she sat by the poor frail remains of a fire-deep in her one luxury of thought—she would wander back down those dim aisles of long-ago. And the outcome of it all would be: "He must never know!"

And, after all, Mary's future was made. She had kind friends, and the friends loved her. She was beautiful, she would marry and have a home of her own. Pray God, she would, before her beauty and these paintings made her a toast.

And in those days Stella's husband died—the woman name, for the child's sake, she ceased to bear—and the times grew easier for the lonely woman.

Her life's work seemed done, and she was weary.

When winter came a short hacking cough disturbed her nights. Her daily work grew irksome; her pen was less productive. The winter was hard. Had Mrs. Sinclair only known that the hampers she sent to Mary's mother were often her sole sustenance!

Moreover, her old friend, influenza was about. Good Mrs. Sinclair was recovering therefrom, when one day she sent to her husband's studio in trepidation.

"Hugh," she said, "it is quite dreadful" (the plump cheeks streaming with good-natured sympathy), "poor Mrs. Adair is dying, and neither I nor Mary are fit to go to her. It is quite six weeks since the child saw her mother. What will St. Moritz and the influenza—oh, dear, what shall we do?"

"I will go," he said simply. The good woman sank on her cushion with a sigh of relief.

"What a dear! I knew you would Hugh. Please do all that is necessary and—"

But Hugh was gone.

Buttoning his fur coat tightly around him, he took a hansom, and was soon across London.

"Oh, sir, I am so glad you have come," said the landlady. "The poor thing's just gone. You'll find her on the top floor; I've just left her, and the doctor's coming again at five."

All was silence as he entered that small, bare room.

It seemed empty, save for that small bed, and its still occupant.

The man sank on his knees by the couch.

"Stella!"

With an effort she half rose, and laid her head on his breast. Both his arms were round her, as with passionate tenderness he smoothed the beautiful hair from the damp forehead.

It was as if they had never parted.

And in the twilight of that December day these two once again said "Farewell!"

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